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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/27/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [JO](#)
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PRISONERS INJURE THEMSELVES PRIOR TO
HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH VISIT

REF: A. AMMAN 720
[1](#)B. 06 AMMAN 1503
[1](#)C. 06 AMMAN 2657

Classified By: Ambassador David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (U) According to Jordanian media reports, during an August 26 visit by a Human Rights Watch (HRW) delegation to Swaqa correctional facility, approximately 100 prisoners injured themselves. A Public Security Directorate (PSD) spokesperson said that prisoners used ceramic and wood objects broken from prison toilets to inflict self-injury in an attempt to draw the attention of a HRW delegation that was visiting Swaqa - a 2,000-inmate correctional facility located approximately 50 miles south of Amman. Injured prisoners were treated at local hospitals and released, according to press.

[1](#)2. (U) HRW Middle East and North Africa Division researcher Chris Wilcke told reporters that the HRW delegation visited the facility to follow up on claims of torture that his team had received during an earlier visit to Swaqa. Wilcke said that he noticed bruises and torture marks on inmates that he interviewed during the earlier visit and that he heard allegations that prisoners were tortured after the earlier visit. Note: Nisreen Zreiqat, Head of the Rehabilitation and Correctional Facility Unit from the quasi-governmental National Center for Human Rights (NCHR), told emboff that NCHR has received several complaints of ill treatment and torture at Swaqa. NCHR is asking PSD to investigate the deaths of four inmates at different prisons in Jordan and is scheduled to publish a report on Jordanian correctional facilities in October. End Note.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: Emboffs engaged with the GOJ on human rights issues are regularly given assurances that prisoners are treated in accordance with international standards and that torture is not practiced at any GOJ correctional facility (ref A). End comment.
Hale